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**TransCanada**  
**Midstream**

February 24, 2000

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Vernon A. Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street N.W.  
Washington D.C. 2043-0001

**ENTERED**  
**Office of the Secretary**  
**FEB 29 2000**  
**Part of**  
**Public Record**



Dear Sir:

**Re: Canadian National Railway Company, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation  
Common Control (STB Finance Docket No. 33842)**

Novagas Canada Ltd., doing business as TransCanada Midstream (TCM) is a major marketer and transporter of natural gas liquids within North America. TCM is also a significant user of rail transportation services within Canada and the United States.

The March 8, 2000 hearing in Ex Parte 582, regarding the merger application by CN and Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railroads raised a concern with TCM. TCM understands that there are lobbying efforts currently in effect, that might delay the hearing from taking place at this time. TCM would like to encourage the Surface Transportation Board to continue with the scheduled hearing date as planned.

TCM believes that the historical practice of the Surface Transportation Board is totally comprehensive and, TCM believes that this practice includes protecting the public's interest and assessing a merger of this nature in isolation.

TCM also requests that the Board consider during the hearing, the level of post merger service. Quality transportation is imperative for TCM's natural gas liquids business within Canada and the United States and, TCM would like to respectfully ask the Board to focus on assurances from the applicants that the current level of service will neither diminish nor deteriorate.

Yours truly,

Richard N. Gateman  
Vice President,  
Corporate Development and External Affairs